



Established in 1987, The Cook Islands Family Welfare Association is a non profit dedicated to providing the people of the Cook Islands with safe, quality, affordable sexual Reproductive Health Care services and Education.

**VISION** "Safe Sexual Reproductive Health For All"

**MISSION** "To provide quality sexual reproductive health information and services that are accessible and affordable to all, especially working with young and disadvantaged groups in the Cook Islands"

## MEET WITH AUSTRALIAS GENDER EQUALITY AMBASSADOR, STEPHANIE COPUS CAMPBELL

## STAKEHOLDERS MEET, THURS 18 APRIL



Several stakeholders across the church, and civil society organizations will meet with CIFWA this week to discuss the roll-out of the Cervical Cancer campaign for the Cook Islands 2023-2025 Outreach.

The campaign to be delivered over two years, aims to have 1600 women on Rarotonga to undergo a health check which consists of the triage (blood, sugar check) a breast check/examination and pap smear test for those who have not had one (self-test optional)

Stakeholders will look and see how they can assist and support in this area, whether it be by pulling the women in and encouraging positive support or providing background and logistical assistance.

The first outreach under this campaign will be for Puaikura, next Tuesday 23 April. The women, young and vaintini in the community and churches of Arorangi have been encouraged to attend, from 5 to 8pm at the Calvary Hall in Arorangi. The TMO Mobile Bus will also be on hand, together with a handful of nurses and a Dr to deliver the services.

CIFWA Executive Director Rongo File, together with the Omdusdman Niki Rattle, and Rereao Vano from Nui Rarotonga met with Australia's Ambassador for Gender Equality Ms. Stephanie Copus Campbell while on Rarotonga for discussions and networking.

The Ambassador has some background in sexual reproductive health-maternal and child-care and received some great insights into how CIFWA operates and the services it provides, as well as the on-the-ground work that the Association has carried out in terms of Gender Based Violence.

Her visit includes discussions with several senior leaders across community and government, and roundtables with civil society advocates helping to progress gender equality. Topics of discussion include the elimination of gender-based violence, economic equality and security, health and political participation.

Campbell has extensive experience working across the public, private, philanthropic and community sectors in Australia and the Indo-Pacific.

## BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS GROUP

CIFWA is supporting a small group of women in forming a Breast Cancer Survivors Group. The group is still in its early planning stages, and regular meetings held at the CIFWA office will set out the direction of the group.



Here's wishing CIFWA's Humanitarian Focal-Point Dean Kapi Tangata, who also holds the President post of Pride Cook Islands, all the best in contending in this Friday's 2024 Miss Thunderhips show, as part of Anuanua Week 2024. Anuanua Week 2024 celebrates one year since the Cook Islands decriminalized same-sex relations. Prior to the decriminalization on April 14th, 2023, homosexuality was punishable by up to five years in jail. CIFWA was instrumental in advocating and making a submission during the trial of the bill, and supports the rainbow community as they continue to make available services through the spaces of gender-based violence, health checks, and counselling.